

Insurance & Ridden/Driven Training for RDA Sessions



It is recognised that in order to deliver safe and interesting sessions of a suitable standard, the RDA equines, volunteers and staff need to receive regular training, which may include the need for volunteers or staff to ride/drive the equines as part of the training. By doing this, the RDA will be able to ensure RDA participants have a safer and better experience whilst taking part.

The riding/driving of equines by volunteers or staff is only covered under RDA insurance when the following conditions are met:

1. The Equine

The equine must have been assessed for RDA purposes.

2. The Training

- a) If training is within the group venue, the group trustees must be made aware beforehand and know that the session is being delivered by a coach who is suitably qualified to run sessions unsupervised
- b) If an equine is receiving 1:1 training, within the venue but outside of sessions, the rider/driver must be assessed as being suitably experienced by the Group Coach and the trustees be aware beforehand that they are taking part
- c) If training is being delivered at County or Regional level the coach must have a Coach Certificate or Advanced Coach Certificate, and get confirmation from their Regional Chair that the training can be held
- d) Any such training at National Level must be delivered by National Trainers, with the Coaching (Training & Education Team) at National Office being pre-advised
- e) Normal conditions apply to the maximum weight for rider/driver: equine combinations.
- f) Normal RDA Health and Safety policies apply, including risk assessments, first aider present and riders/drivers wearing hats and appropriate clothing

3. The Rider/Driver

- a) The person riding/driving must be suitably qualified for the training being delivered. It is for the coaches to risk assess and decide on the suitability of the rider/driver, depending on the training being provided
- b) Any rider/driver must be a registered volunteer / staff with a green card

4. The Purpose

Examples where riding/driving whilst training horses and/or volunteers include:

- a) Once an equine has been initially trained to join a group environment, volunteers then ride/drive them in sessions to introduce them to a group situation and get them used to being led.
- b) Equines being trained to stand still for extended periods at the mounting area or hoist.
- c) Training an equine to prepare for a participant who is unbalanced or has a condition which may affect an equine if not prepared.
- d) Equines need regular training of "good practice" generally to ensure they remain safe for participants and to help loosen them up and bring them on.
- e) Volunteers can benefit from experiencing the session as a rider/driver so that they can better understand the participant experience and provide better support within the sessions.
- f) Volunteers may need to ride/drive at training sessions to demonstrate to other volunteers the practical implementation of the training or support coaches in their development.

There will be other training needs, as this list is not exhaustive. If in doubt please check with your Regional/County Coach, Driving Rep or one of the Training & Education Team at National Office.